Sale of banned medicines

†771. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that banned medicines are being sold in the country, even banned injection oxytoxin is being used in rural areas to exploit more milk from the animals;

(b) whether Government propose to take stringent action to stop the sale of banned medicines and use of banned injections; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) Sale of oxytocin injection has not been prohibited in the country. The misuse of oxytocin injection has been reported in milching animals, particularly in buffaloes, at the time of milking, under the erroneous impression that it increases milk production. However, in order to check its misuse in milk animals it has been made mandatory to pack oxytocin injection in single unit blister packs only. Further oxytocin has been notified as a Schedule-H drug and can be sold against the prescription of registered medical/veterinary practitioner only. Instructions have also been issued to all State Drug Controllers to regulate and monitor manufacture and distribution of oxytocin.

(b) and (c) Adequate provisions are available under the Drug and Cosmetics Act and the Rules made there under for the State licensing authorities to take action in cases of sale of any banned drugs or injections.

Implementation of health sector reforms

772. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has observed in the Tenth Plan document that the contents and quality of the health sector reforms are sub-optimal and the pace of implementation is slow;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.